

# RC&D



Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development

## • 1996 National Award Recipients!!

The National Association of RC&D Councils and the RC&D Staff congratulate the recipients of the 1996 Awards. Awardees are:

The OUTSTANDING RC&D COUNCIL for 1996 is **St. John Aroostook RC&D Council, Maine**, representing the New England Association of RC&Ds..

The OUTSTANDING RC&D COUNCIL PERSON for 1996 is **Leon Russell, Ouachita Mt. RC&D, Oklahoma**, representing the Southwestern Association of RC&Ds.

The OUTSTANDING RC&D SPONSORING ORGANIZATION for 1996 is **Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Wheatland RC&D**

**Council, Oklahoma**, representing the Southwest Association of RC&Ds.

The OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A COORDINATOR, "CHUCK" McCARTY AWARD, for 1996 is **Dale D. Kraus, Pathfinders RC&D Area, Inc., Iowa**, Representing the North Central Association of RC&Ds.

For detailed information about these wonderful award winners please see the inclosure which contains detailed information. Congratulations to all the outstanding award winners.

---

PLAN NOW!!

## Nebraska RC&D Wins Western Association Best Display

For the second year in a row, the Nebraska RC&D Association overwhelmingly won the "BEST BOOTH DISPLAY" award at the annual Western RC&D Conference held January 8-10 in Albuquerque, NM. Congratulations to Nebraska RC&Ds!

The booth displayed projects completed by the RC&Ds within the State of Nebraska. These projects included such things as —

range management and research,  
wetland preservation,  
forest management,  
water quality,  
water use, and  
partnership development.

In addition, more than 20 Nebraska made products were displayed and promoted. Products included—

apple juice	hand-crafted
beefsticks	cedar chests
birdhouses	buffalo jerky
and feeders	corn chips and salsa
flavored toothpicks	popcorn
salmon	seasoning
ugly nuts	

Congratulations also go to President Dave Jones, North Central Nebraska RC&D Council, for being selected to serve as 2nd Vice President for the Western Association. His leadership will be greatly appreciated in the west.

## USDA Becoming More Entrepreneurial

**T**hirty members of Team USDA attended entrepreneurial training program called Premier FastTrac in Denver, Colorado, February 26 thru March 1, 1996.

Premier FastTrac is a practical, “how-to,” effective business development program for entrepreneurs. It is designed to assist entrepreneurs in getting their new ventures off to the right start or to quickly develop skills they need to grow their businesses. By providing entrepreneurial education, technical assistance and business networks, FastTrac encourages developing entrepreneurs and contributes to their long-term stability.



Many Team USDA Members are actively involved in Resource Conservation and Development activities across America. Many of the efforts are directed towards community sustainability through economic development and job creation. Team USDA must learn to work together and to work together entrepreneurially to effectively serve clients. Entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial spirit of Rural Americans will determine if rural communities thrive or perish. For these reasons the Rural Economic Development Action Team (see article titled Rural Economic Development Action Team) sponsored the Premier FastTrac Training Program evaluation workshop in Denver.

FastTrac curriculum can be tailored to meet the specific needs of a community or group. For example, some communities have targeted the program to minority business owners or transitional workers.

Through experiential learning, study, and dealing directly with challenges from their own companies; entrepreneurs learn about opportunity screening and how to build a management team,

use low-cost marketing strategies, develop financial strategies, hire personnel, decide on appropriate legal structures, and manage cash flow. Course instructors present these and other subjects based on personal experiences and those of other entrepreneurs. Instructors or business counselors, or both, provide one-on-one advice for each entrepreneur's specific problems or challenges.

Upon completing the FastTrac program, participants learn how to use the entrepreneur's 'tool box.' They develop a blueprint for starting or building a business, and will have practiced the skills to do it successfully. FastTrac also helps build a support network with entrepreneurs and exposes FastTrac graduates to the wide range of resources for entrepreneurs in their respective communities.

The Team USDA Members who attended the FastTrac Program Evaluation Workshop are anxious to see the Premier FastTrac Program grow.

Premier FastTrac programs are offered in communities throughout the United States through partnerships with foundations, nonprofit organizations, offices of economic development, universities, community colleges, chambers of commerce, small business development centers and any other institution or organization that has a mission of providing the highest quality education and training to Entrepreneurs. Quality is maintained by establishing partnerships that have proven leaders in entrepreneurial education.

For more information about Premier FastTrac or where FastTrac training is being provided contact: The Entrepreneurial Education Foundation, 7535 E. Hampdon Avenue, Suite 352, Denver, CO 80231. Telephone 303 338-1740, FAX 303 338-5736.

## Rural Economic Development Action Team

**T**he Under Secretaries for three USDA mission areas recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that commits their respective agencies to foster collaborative approaches in the area of rural development. Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development Jill Long Thompson, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Jim Lyons, and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics Karl Stauber signed the MOU on October 17, 1995.

“The MOU also created an internal mechanism - a ‘Rural Economic Development Action Team’ - to more effectively target resources, including the pooling of funds, to meet the needs of rural America,” explained Romana Vysatova, chair of the REDAT. It is composed of representatives from the three mission areas.

“RADAT’s goal is to initiate a Department wide strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency resources and skills by identifying obstacles that need to be eliminated and incentives that could be provided to foster cooperation.” she said. “The team will focus on implementing action items relating to four key goals of the MOU.”

Those goals include:

- \* creating a shared rural development vision across USDA agencies;
- \* promoting a joint rural development vision among USDA’s field employees and local communities;
- \* developing an interagency research effort to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of rural development initiatives; and
- \* coordinating the institutional infrastructure across the three mission areas.

REDAT has created a World Wide Web page that is linked to the rural resources directory of a

government/private sector National Rural Development Partnership Web site. “We encourage USDA employees, especially field employees, to contribute ideas to the REDAT effort by visiting the Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/redat>” Vysatova said.

Romana can also be reached by calling 202 690-0318 or Faxing 202 720-8445.

## Reducing Clutter Reduces Stress

Time management experts say that if you’re already overworked and over-dressed, clutter will worsen your problems.

“Clutter is unsorted and unprioritized. You lose time shuffling through papers. And the pile creates stress just looking at it,” said Odette Pollar, a time management consultant in Oakland, California, and the author of “99 Ways to Manage Paperwork.”

- \* If it is difficult to “let go of clutter, think of where it would find better use. For example, books can be donated to a local library or school.
- \* Track materials that pile up most frequently and seek ways to eliminate constant problems.
- \* If you haven’t read what’s in your “reading” file within 2 to 4 weeks, pitch it.

## Pathfinders Alternative Wastewater Treatment Systems

In 1993 and 1994 Pathfinders RC&D, Iowa, provided technical and financial assistance in the construction of five individual household Aquatic Plant Wastewater Treatment Systems. These demonstrations replace the traditional method of treating individual household wastewater which can be diagrammed as: house - septic tank - drain field; the Pathfinders Alternative Wastewater Treatment system (PAWS) is: house - septic tank - wetland.

PAWS is based on the premise that approximately 30 percent of the RC&D area's residents live in locations without adequate wastewater treatment facilities. Many rural septic tanks outlet into road ditches, waterways, or field tile. Conventional drain fields do not function well in the heavy clay soils that are predominant in the area.

In brief, aquatic plant wastewater treatment systems function on the cooperative growth of plants and microorganisms. Micro-organisms establish themselves on the plant roots, decompose the waste effluent that plants feed on thus forming a symbiotic relationship.

Recent water tests indicate that the systems that are established with aquatic plants are doing an adequate job of treating septic effluent. The wetland components consist of a 3- to 4-foot-wide shallow trench, 16 to 18 inches deep, filled with rock. The effluent is held from 4 to 6 inches below the surface. The rock-filled trench (1- to 3-inch washed stone) is then planted with cattails and bulrushes. The original design called for 100 lineal feet of wetland per bedroom; however, alternative designs are now being tried. Each site must be surveyed and specifically designed. Even a seemingly minor error in construction elevation will effect the designed effluent levels and the growth of the wetland plants. Without vigorous wetland plants PAWS will not adequately function.

For more information contact Dale D. Kraus, Coordinator of the Pathfinder RC&D in Fairfield, Iowa, by calling 515 472-6177.

## Kentucky Governor Recognizes RC&D Project

Congratulation to the Pennyrile RC&D Council for OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP!

The Little River Project in Trigg County, Kentucky, was one of only 15 state projects to be recognized by Governor Brereton Jones. The project was recognized for the county's partnership with various local, state, and Federal agencies and organizations for work in the area of river protection and environmental education. Some of the activities to be implemented include debris removal, streambank protection, landscaping along about 3 miles of Highway 68/80 and erosion control practices at Cadiz Ditch and along the city's Walking Trail.

For more information contact Pennyrile RC&D Council, 530 Noel Avenue, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240. Phone: 502 885-8694.

## Dry Hydrants Lower Insurance Premiums

The Dry Hydrant Project is continuing to gain support in the Pennyrile RC&D Area. To date in excess of 130 dry hydrant systems have been installed in farm ponds, lakes, and springs to provide readily available water supply to fight fires in rural areas. The project is spearheaded by the Pennyrile RC&D Council working in cooperation with its partners including, NRCS, SWCDs, Army Corp of Engineers, numerous volunteer fire departments, county government, and others.

Through the installation of dry hydrants many insurance agents have reduced homeowners premiums as much as \$500 annually.

For more information contact the Pennyrile RC&D Office by calling 505 885-8692.

## RC&D on the Wasatch Front, Utah

**Parley's Crossing:** Everyone agrees a bike path connection is needed on the East Side of Salt Lake City, Utah, but the City, County, nor Utah Department of Transportation was willing to make it a priority. The RC&D Council got several community groups together, built a strategy, developed legislation, created funding and found technical expertise needed to apply for a major ISTE funding. The RC&D provided the umbrella organization for the communities to act upon what everyone knew needed to be done. The Parley's Crossing will be a gateway to the 2002 Winter Olympic games and the main entrance into Salt Lake City and County from the east.

**Clover Creek:** This watershed has BLM, USDA Forest Service, State and private management each agreeing that the water quality and quantity are intolerable and the town of Rush Valley is in jeopardy of losing a potable water source. The RC&D gave the neutral organizational structure needed for these groups to gather, discuss, plan, and begin implementing one approach to watershed management.

For the initiative:

- the county stepped forward with leadership and \$50,000 to begin the project,
- NRCS is offering an employee 1/2 time as a coordinator,
- Forest Service is developing partnership funding options,
- BLM is providing fire crews for burning projects, and
- private land owners are improving their lands

The State Legislature has resolved that Clover Creek should be a model for other watersheds in the state.

**1995 National Environmental Youth Summit:** This summit was held in Snowbird, Utah, managed for kids and by kids. The RC&D help the kids learn management skills, negotiating skills, built networks and funding sources and

most importantly ran the “fire camp” during the summit. The student/adult leadership team acted as a fire management team in the midst of a natural crisis. Typically, the kids got up every morning at 0600, reviewed work from the previous day and the assignments for that day, divide up the work to be done, and did it. Then at 1900 hours they gathered to review the day and set the tentative assignments for the next day. The RC&D facilitated the pre-conference work and the “fire camp”, but the kids soon caught on and took over with the RC&D acting simply as staff to kids ages 11-18!

**Re-organizing the RC&D:** This RC&D has yet to be authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture and realizes that it must not only fit the purposes of the RC&D but also as a competitive nonprofit organization, in an urban and rural context! Small challenge! The Charter members/sponsors, with support of Utah

NRCS, formed a partnership with the Forest Service and Association of Conservation Districts to gain a Coordinator, and begin acting as an RC&D Council. It began with no staff, no budget, and little likelihood of success. The Charter Council dissolved its Board in December 1995 and established a diverse and traditionally non-RC&D Board of Directors to advise it on legal, financial, nonprofit, agricultural, and other natural resource issues. The Council has become strong, diverse and capable of supporting multi-million dollar projects. Its budget is above \$30,000 without federal authorization. The outlook future service is great and the support within the counties is strong and growing with each new project success!

For more information about any of the Wasatch Front RC&D Council activities contact its office in South Jordan, Utah, by calling 801 553-2210 or FAXing 801 571-1458, David Spann or Ellen Tricker will be glad to hear from you.



## Fish America Foundation, TVA, Wildlife Forever, U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Fund Pennyrile Project

In August 1995, the City of Hopkinsville began restoration and enhancement activities to improve river conditions within North Fork of Little River for better fish habitat and canoeing.

The project involves installing seventeen log and rock structures to deflect water from eroding river banks and to divert shallow water flow into deeper pools for better fish habitat and increased canoeing during special events like Little River Days, Hopkinsville Salute to Fort Campbell Week, and the city's Arts and Crafts Festival.

The river project was made possible through grants from Fish America, TVA, Wildlife Forever and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Technical support for the project was provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information contact the Pennyrile RC&D Office by calling 502 885-8692

## Company's Coming

The small rural town of Thomaston, Alabama, takes control of their destiny by developing and implementing a coordinated collaborative strategic plan. The planning and implementing process successfully involved all members of the community. Citizens, local leaders, business owners, academia, public and private agencies and organizations all worked together to develop a common vision for their community.

This community improvement effort operates on the premise that: *Company's coming* so let's go to the extra effort to make their visit enjoyable—maybe they will want to stay longer or even move in!

Ala-Tom RC&D Council, a Company's Coming Project Team Member, has an excellent video available that documents how the community is working together to make its community a better place to live and work. The tape is \$10 a copy. Contacting the Ala-Tom RC&D, Grove Hill, AL. Telephone 334-275-3186, FAX 334-275-8888.

## RSVP Helped Ala-Tom RC&D! RSVP Can Help You Too!

RSVP volunteers helped Ala-Tom RC&D Council to put together the "Helping Small Towns Survive" Workshop. Volunteers and the RSVP Staff assisted in the planning of the workshop, helped coordinate workshop publicity, served the food at the workshop, prepared food using shitake mushrooms marketed by the local RC&D, assisted with registration, and even made presentations at the workshop.

RSVP stands for the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program, which is composed of people aged 55 and over who are engaged in service opportunities in their home communities.

RSVP volunteers serve at no pay from a few hours a week to over 40 hours a week in non-profit organizations and government agencies involved in community service.

RSVP helps to meet the needs of the community through the use of their skills and lifelong experience. Local public and private agencies receive grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service to sponsor and operate these projects. RSVP helps meet the need of strained local budgets through the use of volunteers.

RSVP can be a good resource to local RC&D Councils in a number of ways:

- serve as support staff,
- assist in special projects, and
- help disseminate information to the community about RC&D activities.

Call Your local RSVP office to establish contact. RSVP's goal is to provide community service through involving seniors aged 55 and over in meaningful projects and programs. RSVP can be another link in your network of support services to enhance your program.

## California Wildfire - A Catalyst For Partnership

*The setting:* San Luis Obispo County, California, that includes an inland watershed serving the communities of Atascadero, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Margarita.

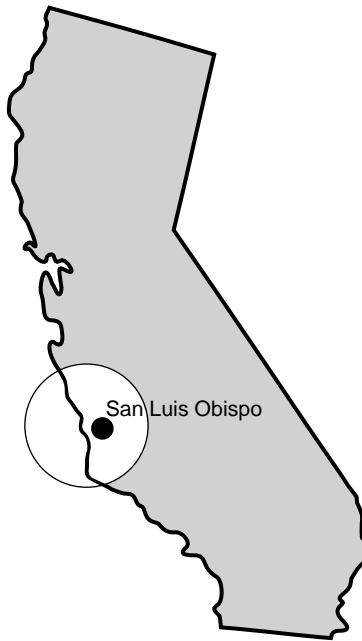
*The event:* On August 14, 1994, during the midday hours, the temperatures were over 100 degrees, the humidity was low and a hot, dry inland wind prevailed. An arson fire was ignited on grassy, oak-studded slopes near a national campground.

*Extent:* For 3 days the fire raged over 48,500 acres reaching a rate of spread of 6,743 acres per hour - ranked as the 2nd fastest fire in California fire fighting history. Extinguish the fire took 2,900 fire fighters, 324 fire engines, 70 fire crews, 36 bulldozers, 14 air tankers, and 13 helicopters.

By the time the fire was brought under control 48,500 acres had been denuded of all vegetation, 91 vehicles had been destroyed, 42 homes had been destroyed, and 60 non-residential structures burned. \$7 million in damages and \$6.2 million in fire suppression costs resulted from an arsonists match.

*Reconstruction partnerships:* Landowners and representatives of two local SWCDs, San Luis Obispo County, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Central Coast RC&D Council planned appropriate actions to move towards cost-effective watershed management. A key component of this cooperative effort was to develop a fuels management strategy that all landowners could implement.

Also, 22 landowners completed 7 community watershed plans. While addressing watershed-wide fire safety concerns, the plans are tailored to meet the needs of individual landowners, within each of the group plans of adjoining



landowners. Each plan includes specified measures that address the different ways in which the fire affected a particular piece of property.

Spurred by favorable growing conditions, most of the burn area now has an excess of 50 percent ground cover of seeded and native vegetation. All landowners are being encouraged to implement their watershed plans to prevent the build-up of hazardous fuels. Because of these community partnerships, this project has received the highest funding priority in the state by the California Department of Forestry.

*Outreach partnerships:* Fire Hazard Reduction Workshops have been developed, using data gathered from the impacts of this wildfire as well as information developed during the watershed planning and restoration phase.

Homes built with straw bales have been approved in San Luis Obispo County. During the firestorm of 1994, the home of architects Polly Cooper and Ken Haggard was completely destroyed. Next to a steam on a hillside blackened by the blaze a straw-bale structure built by Native American high school students stood untouched. The straw-bales were covered with plaster and made moisture proof which also prevented hot air access generated by the fire. Today, these two homeowners are rebuilding, but this time their home will be a permitted straw-bale home—the first in San Luis Obispo County.

During 1995 the California State Legislature passed legislation establishing "minimum standards of safety for the construction of structures that use baled straw".

For more information contact the Central Coast RC&D Council office in Morro Bay, California, by calling 805 772-5623.

## Cranberry Project Taking Root In Tennessee

Cranberries may be making a comeback in Shady Valley, Tennessee. At least that is the hope of the 20 Ruritan Club members and other residents of the Valley who gathered on the Thelma Brinkley farm on a Thursday evening for a pivotal moment in their cranberry restoration project.

The Ruritan Club members and others involved in the project had been anticipating this moment for a long time. Wading and plucking through the thick, wet, and fertile muck of a bog, the volunteers transplanted 250 rooted cranberry cuttings from small pots to a prepared site. The sometimes ankle-deep muddy soil did not deter their enthusiasm. Club members have been nurturing the cranberry cuttings in their homes for months, preparing them for planting.

Todd Eastin, Club President and director of the project, said the members who cared for the 300 original cuttings in their homes brought back about 90 percent successfully rooted plants. During earlier phases of the project, Eastin took the cuttings from cranberry plants growing in two of the remaining bogs in the valley.

One of the club members, Thelma Brinkley, donated the 4,600 square feet of land for the project. This farmland is part of the habitat of the native cranberry. Once occupying a major portion of the valley floor, the cranberry is now classified as a threatened species in Tennessee and is found in only three remnant bogs in Shady Valley.

The community celebrates its unique cranberry history during an annual festival, which is the

major fund raising event for the area's rural elementary school.

Roy Settle, coordinator of the Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee RC&D Project, took a break from planting cranberry cuttings to describe the project and its goals:

"This project is an on-the-ground test to see if natural type bogs can be replicated, and if so this could be a precursor to small-scale commercial cranberry production."

Settle said the project will benefit the people of Shady Valley in three ways:

- help preserve the unique natural occurrence of the native cranberry;
- provide a replicated natural bog for tours and education, specifically for the annual Cranberry Festival; and
- provide an opportunity to explore the possibility of small-scale commercial production of cranberries.

The project has received a commitment of grant funds from the USDA Forest Service through the economic revitalization program.

Getting the idea of cranberry restoration off the ground and running required a great deal of effort. This initial work was started by Bill Ziletti, Coordinator of the Service Corp of Retired Executives' (SCORE) Rural Community Development Program in the Southeast Region.

Ziletti, Eastin, and others talked about what could be done to revitalize Shady Valley. The idea of cranberry restoration soon developed into a major project. Ziletti conducted extensive research, garnered wide-ranging support, and gathered materials for the project's library.

For more information contact the Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee RC&D Council by calling 615 854-9621.



## Big Horn Basin Wyoming RC&D Strikes Again

**B**ig Horn County Fire District #2 was in need of an attack fire truck for wildfire and auto accident response. District #2 serves the south side of Big Horn County in Wyoming.

This prompted a phone call to the Big Horn Basin Wyoming RC&D office because of previous RC&D assisted emergency response projects in the region.

The Council determined the project to be within the scope of the area plan. A new vehicle, properly equipped was going to cost \$59,000. An RC&D assisted search for used equipment was initiated. A volunteer fire district in Craig, Colorado, had used equipment for sale.

An inspection of the used truck was conducted in Rawlins, Wyoming, which is half way between Craig and Big Horn County. The equipment met fire districts needs with some modifications.

The Fire District Board hammered out an agreement to purchase the truck and some additional equipment for \$13,000. The Big Horn Basin Wyoming RC&D Council with the assistance of the Wyoming Natural resources Conservation Service contributed \$3,900 to retrofit a foam unit on the used truck. The volunteer firefighters installed the foam unit and made other needed modifications to the truck. The Big Horn Fire District #2 saved \$42,100 on this project.

The foam unit on the truck has made three notable contributions:

- Putting out one petroleum fire at the County Fair,
- Preventing the spread of fire in a combine during barley harvest, and
- Preventing destruction of the local radio station when fire started in the attic.

The Big Horn Basin Wyoming RC&D has again assisted a sponsor providing needed equipment in a timely manner at a reduced cost to the public.

For more information contact the Big Horn Basin Wyoming RC&D office in Worland, Wyoming, by calling 307 347-2804.

## Loup Basin RC&D Honored As “Outstanding Council”

At the recent Western RC&D Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque, The Loup Basin RC&D received the “1995 Outstanding Council Award”.

Loup Basin RC&D Council was a significant partner in making many projects happen. They include:

- preservation of wetlands,
- renewable energy production source,
- historical sight preservation, recycling,
- promotion of range management,
- water quality and quantity activities,
- creation of jobs, and
- promotion of locally produced products and businesses.

More than 80 successful partnerships were developed with Federal, state and local entities and individuals.

Congratulation to everyone involved with the Loup Basin RC&D Council!

## Biomass Energy Production In Nebraska

**T**he Northeast Nebraska RC&D Biomass Committee has really gotten excited about the prospects that biomass has to offer. This diverse committee consisting of a city attorney, an extension educator, a retired implement dealer, a farmer, an ethanol producer and hay hauler, and a poultry waste manager at an egg-laying facility (4 million chickens in one place!) sees a great deal of opportunity for economic development with biomass. Northeast Nebraska has a variety of biomass material that could be used to produce energy.

Educating the committee about biomass was one of the first identified needs. To learn more about processing switchgrass into ethanol they traveled to Golden, Colorado where they toured the National Renewable Energy Lab's pilot plant. What they saw taking place there convinced them that the technology is close at hand.



In September the committee was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to organize biomass energy groups in the RC&D area. From these groups the intent is for projects to be identified, energy producer cooperatives to form, and small biomass businesses to develop.

Immediate plans included a public education meeting on March 13, 1996. Speakers from around the country shared information about the future of biomass energy production. Long-range committee goals include establishment of several cooperatives and a number of biomass energy processing plants.

For more information about the Northeast RC&D Council project, contact Jan Jorgensen, Coordinator, Northeast Nebraska RC&D in Plainview, Nebraska, at 402 582-4866.

### College Students Assist Firms With Business And Marketing Plans

Students from three Maine colleges are assisting Maine Forest Products Marketing by developing business and marketing plans for six secondary wood producers.

Student from the University of Maine at Presque Isle will be writing marketing plans for Bradbury Barrel in Bridgewater and MacDonald Enterprises in Caribou. Students from Husson College will be creating business plans for Vice Firth Manufacturing, Inc. in Newport and Porter's Woodworking, Inc. in Patten. Students from Thomas College will be writing business plans for Coastal Woodworking in Nobleboro and A.E. Sampson and Son in Warren.

The students are majoring in business administration, finance, management, finance/economics, and accounting.

For more information contact Maine Wood by calling 207 695-3100.



## Hilo Hamakua Heritage Corridor Project

The citizens of four communities in the Hilo Hamakua Region of the Island of Hawaii developed and are implementing the Hilo Hamakua Heritage Corridor Project Plan. When completed the project will link a 40-mile stretch of rural coastline between the city of Hilo and the scenic attraction of Waipio Valley into a cohesive “heritage corridor” scenic drive. Its historic features will be well marked stops along the way to reflect the region’s history. These will include:

- ancient Hawaiian fishing villages (Rural South Hilo’s Onomea Trail Site);
- cattle ranching (Honokaa Town);
- plantation heritage (Pa’auilo Plantation Museum, Laupahoehoe Railway Station, Hakalau Plantation Village).

### **Rural South Hilo: Onomea section of the Alaloa Trail and the Hakalau Plantation Village**

A cultural historical information center is proposed for the Hakalau Sugar Company Warehouse, one of two large warehouses from 1920 located in the small village of Hakalau. The center will be operated by a private, nonprofit with assistance from the Rural South Hilo Community Association. C. Brewer Company is the landowner and has indicated a willingness to consider a visitor center lease for the warehouse structure. It is presently abandoned and in need of repair work, which will require an initial start up loan or grant to cover costs by the nonprofit.

The Hakalau Cultural and Historical Center will feature information about all of the different places and towns to visit in the large Rural South Hilo area, but will highlight a special local history tour of the Onomea Trail, located along the 4-mile scenic drive in Onomea. It is part of the ancient Alaloa Coastal Trail that led to the Hawaiian fishing village of Kahalii at Onomea landing. The trail became an old government road, and survives today as a public trail to the shoreline and local fishing spots. Much historic information has been compiled regarding the trail and the general area as a result of the project, and would be incorporated as part of the trail visit experience.

### **North Hilo: Old Laupahoehoe Railway Landing**

This 175 -foot long by 9-foot wide concrete landing is relatively unnoticed at the present. The landowner is supportive of the project, and the community association is willing to provide much volunteer work to clean up the area and refurbish the present residential structure into a visitor center. The site served as a small train depot and turntable area in the first half of this century for both passenger traffic and hauling cane to Hilo. The center will be run by the North Hilo Community Association as a nonprofit organization, and a loan or grant for restoration and repair will be needed.

### **Pa’auilo: The Hamakua Sugar Plantation Industrial Relations Building**

The Industrial Relations Building is part of a complex that includes the Pa’auilo Post Office, and the Pa’auilo Store & Earl’s Snack Shop. The Industrial Relations Building would house a mini-museum and Visitor Center. It will be operated by a nonprofit organization and will need an initial loan or grant for restoration. The IR Building is a short distance from the Hamakua Sugar Company Manager’s residence, which will be used as a preschool. This area will provide a good walking tour to see the Hamakua Sugar Plantation Grounds, the architectural style of the manager’s residence, and maybe some of Hawaii’s children at play.

### **Honokaa: Honokaa Town Heritage Center**

The entire town of Honokaa was selected as a heritage center. It has a unique history which combines a strong “western storefront” presence from a time when it was the center of the island’s cattle industry, to its later development into a sugar plantation town surrounded by several coastal mill companies and worker camp settlements. The specific site for the cultural historical information center is the historic Honokaa Club Hotel. The Center will act as a referral point for historic and cultural information about the town and its businesses, as well for points of interest in the larger area , such as: Waipio Valley, known for its precontact settlements and taro production; Ahualoa, a mauka ranching area; and nearby sugar mill sites and worker camp areas.

## Calender of Events

April 10 – 12

### **Grant Proposal Writing Seminar**

By Ron Ayer

Location: Lubbock, Texas

Contact Big Country RC&D 915 235-4300

April 29 – 30

### **Grants and Grant Writing**

By Dr. Bundschuh

Location: Winnfield, Louisiana

Contact Trailblazer, Inc., Ph: 318 255-3554.

FAX 318 251-9199

May 6 – 9

### **Grants Management: Planning, Implementing, Monitoring, & Evaluating Grant-Funded Programs/A Community Systems Workshop**

By Barbara Bader & Steven Carr

Location: Jackson, Wyoming

Registration by April 12, 1996

Contact Western Wyoming RC&D  
307 382-3982

September 15 – 20

### **Bioenergy '96 - 7th National Bioenergy Conference**

Location: The Opryland Hotel, Nashville

Contact Dan Hines, American Energy Crops Assoc., 1018 North Bompert, St Louis, Missouri 63119. Phone 314 962-4307, FAX 314 962-1057

October 2 – 5

### **1996 Southeast Association of RC&D Councils Annual Meeting,**

Mobile, Alabama

June 15 – 18, 1997

### **1997 National RC&D Conference**

St. Paul, Minnesota

## Winter Issue NSFC

The winter issue of National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) has several articles that may be of interest to you.

On page 10 is an article on how one county in Washington State is identifying and treating failing septic systems.

Page 8 describes a new EPA Manual that helps troubleshoot constructed wetlands. It is free.

On page 9 is an article about the National Small Flow Center's Data bases that can be accessed by dialing 1-800 624-8301, Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

### ***Facilities Data Base***

Helps government officials, operators, homeowners, engineers, and wastewater managers obtain the names and addresses of facilities using alternative and conventional wastewater technologies.

### ***Manufacturers and Consultants Data Base***

Provides industry contacts for wastewater products and professional consulting. It can serve as a contact reference source, as well as a referral data base for wastewater products and trade items.

### ***Contacts and Referrals Data Base***

Provides a list of organizations that assist small communities by linking them to organizations and expertise that will help them solve their wastewater problems.

On page 12 is an article about Home\*A\*SYST, a new pollution prevention program for homeowners.

If by chance you are not receiving your subscription, contact National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 1-800 624-8301 and subscribe today.

## Maine Forest Products Marketing Created To Help Secondary Producers

**S**econdary wood producers are significant to the economy of Maine. A conservative estimate of the work force directly or indirectly involved in the making and marketing of wood products is about nine percent of all jobs in the state.

However, when you look at the more rural areas of Maine, this industry is even more vital and pervasive. When you also consider that 17 million of Maine's 19 million acres are forested, it is even more important that this industry remain viable in the future.

Maine Forest Products Marketing (MFPM) in Greenville was born of a vision created through a deliberate process initiated by the Heart of Maine RC&D Council. This Council is just a little over 3 years old. It was fortunate in having among its founding officers and council members a number of individuals who contributed many years of forestry related experience, natural resource ethics, and personal credibility. They formed a nucleus that recruited additional volunteers to create an outstanding professional and highly productive Forestry Resources Committee.

The Forestry Committee is largely made up of field foresters who either deal with the management of growing trees or the logs from a harvest and thus are close to the "stump." When the committee first started its discussions, members wanted to make a difference in the tricounty forest resource. They simply wanted to create wealth by growing quality trees and then enhancing in any way possible the value added manufacturing process.

The committee determined that marketing was the best approach to significantly impact rural communities who host secondary wood companies. Their decision was to start a marketing project to assist the secondary wood industry and to hire a marketing person. Numerous studies from the University of Maine, regional planning groups, and private consultants supported this conclusion. The evidence overwhelmingly identified marketing as a critical need.

With a clear vision of what needed doing, the Forestry Committee employed Bruce Towl of Dover-Foxcroft to articulate their vision in pictures or images. The result was a series of six interconnected drawings showing the current reality of small town economies, the problems faced by the industry, and what the marketing project could do. The vision included how the marketing project would be self sustaining in just 3 years through user fees from the secondary wood producers.

The images were shown to a number of potential financial collaborators. The idea was solid and inspiring. The money came. During its brief 2 plus year history, the MFPM project has generated more than \$341,000 in grants and another \$35,000 in other support activities and user fees.

Tim Washburn was hired by the Heart of Maine as the first director of the Maine Forest Products Marketing project, which started operating in January 1993. MFPM has assisted 21 companies showcase their products at regional trade shows and expositions. Add to that a professional office and state-of-the-art computers and you can see that the start is impressive.

The project, although initially intended to serve secondary producers in Heart of Maine's tricounty area, became a statewide effort in its early development. And MFPM's support goes beyond marketing to technical assistance. The project activities for 1995 are focused on helping secondary wood companies develop business plans as well as marketing plans. The project involved integrating computers into their businesses and producing an industry newsletter to convey information on new equipment, new technology, and new market information. The industry directory will be updated as well and be distributed in early 1996.

For more information about MFPM, contact Vaughn Raser, Heart of Maine RC&D Coordinator (207 278-7223) or Tim Washburn, Director Maine Forest Products Marketing, P.O. Box 1250, Greenville, Maine 04441.

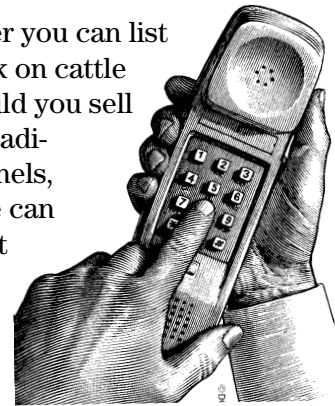
## A Kentucky Beef Cattle Marketing Alternative

**H**arrison County Beef Project (HBP) has taken two well known communication forms—the bulletin board and the telephone answering machine—and developed a uniquely simple marketing tool, AgLink. This easy to use phone bulletin board system can be used to list cattle for sale or hear a recording of cattle that may be purchased. Plus AgLink access is easy and convenient from any touch tone phone using the free 800 number. Although limited only to the listing of cattle, this prototype marketing concept can easily be used for other agricultural commodities and information systems.

Aglink tells users, “Listing cattle for sale on AgLink is just a toll free phone call away 1-800-711-0465 or 606-288-4515. The first time you call AgLink, you’ll be asked to register by simply recording your name and address at the end of the message.

“AgLink registration (it’s free and easy) is required to reach the buy or sell portion of the system. You’ll receive a personal identification number (PIN) with your registration that allows you full access to the AgLink voice bulletin board.

“With your PIN number you can list cattle for sale or check on cattle listed on AgLink. Should you sell listed cattle through traditional marketing channels, let us know so that we can keep the cattle sale list up to date.



“Even if you don’t have cattle to list right now, we still would like to have you as a member of HBP. Information and education are important components of HBP. For further information on HBP contact: Tom Leith, Coordinator, Licking River Valley RC&D in Cynthiana, Kentucky by calling 606-234-3352.”

HBP is a joint Sustainable Agriculture Initiative by the Community Farm Alliance, Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Credit Systems, Harrison County Beef Cattle Association, Harrison County Farm Bureau, Licking River Valley RC&D Council, Inc., and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

---

## For Open Space

**T**he Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council, Ohio, received a \$50,000 grant from the Gund Foundation for open space and farmland preservation activities.

Funds will be used to hire a coordinator, develop audio-visual materials and conduct presentations to local governments in the area.

According to Ronald Mauk, chairman, Lake SWCD and member of the Western Reserve RC&D Council, this initiative will provide solid facts about alternative ways to develop land.

“Using this information, a developer can provide homes and preserve open space in the

development, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for Northeast Ohioans,” he explains.

John Niedzialek, USDA Soil Conservationist in Lake County, serves as RC&D Coordinator for the Western Reserve RC&D. He says tools are available to allow communities to protect farmland and open-space areas from being gobbled up by urban sprawl. This project will help provide those tools to both public and private sector.

Plans are to hire a coordinator by spring and to begin outreach efforts by this summer.

For more information contact John Niedziacek at 216 350-2730.

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Study Funded

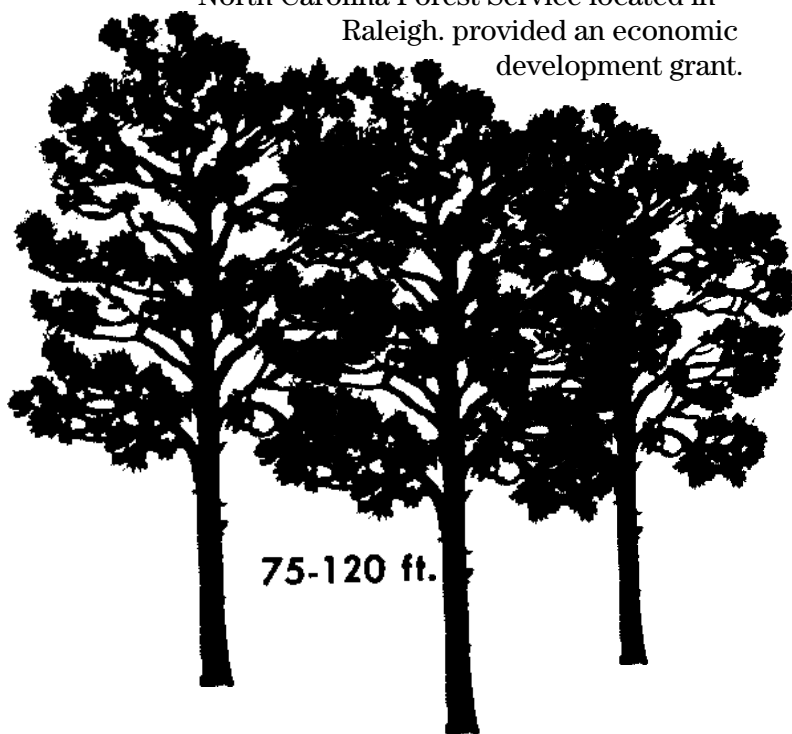
A professional forester, Kevin Williams has begun work on a Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Study. Williams has been hired by Environmental Impact to conduct an inventory of existing and potential areas for the establishment of longleaf pine forests. If the study goes as planned, expansion of the dwindling longleaf pine forest will become a reality, restoring this majestic giant to near its once historical boundaries.

The south-central region of North Carolina will serve as the location for a RC&D Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Study. Counties listed for inventory analysis include Moore, Montgomery, Richmond, and Anson. Acreages calculated from this study should show the true potential for the re-establishment of longleaf pine forest in this region.

The study exemplifies the mission of Environmental Impact that is to bring local people and local organizations together to identify resource problems and seek solutions.

Funding for Phase I of the project was made possible by philanthropic giving by:

- Cole Foundation Fund of the Foundation For The Carolinas located in Charlotte;
- North Carolina Pine Needles Producers Association located in Southern Pines; and
- North Carolina Forest Service located in Raleigh. provided an economic development grant.



The long-term objective is to increase the total number of acres of the native longleaf pine, increase the length of the harvesting of these trees for timber, and increase the public's awareness of the aesthetic and monetary value of this resource to the region. This can be accomplished using economic incentives that are environmentally safe and long term; for example, pine straw harvesting for mulch and enviro-tourism where the longleaf pine, unique in this area, is aesthetically pleasing to visitors.

Our goal is to promote beautiful forest, abundant wildlife habitat, natural filtration systems for our air and water, sustained economic development through a multimillion dollar pine straw mulch industry, and tourism.

For more information contact: Environmental Impact, Inc., 100 East Main Street, Union Station, Aberdeen, North Carolina 28315, Telephone 910-944-4787, FAX 910-944-4796.

**Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory on WWW.**

The Forest Products Laboratory WWW site address is: <http://www.fs.fed.us/outernet/fpl/welcome.htm>.

Resources available at this site:

Welcome to the Forest Products Laboratory

Recent Forest Products Laboratory Publications

Publications Lists

Forest Products Laboratory Organization

Other FS Forest Products and Harvesting Research Units

Major Research Initiatives

Ecosystem Management and Sustainability

Recycling

Green Technology for Minimal Environmental Impact

Forest Products Organizations

## Join the RC&D Network

If you subscribe to the RCD Network you will be able to place messages on the RCD NETWORK shared list and it will automatically go to all subscribers. When someone puts a message on RCD NETWORK you will receive it as an E-mail message. Everyone with Unix should be able to subscribe if their system is set up to allow it. Internet subscribers can subscribe if they have a mail box such as on Compuser, Prodigy or America Online.

Instructions on how to use the RCD NETWORK follow:

**To subscribe:** If you wish to subscribe to the NETWORK send a mail message request to "mwnet!listserv" or Internet address "listserv@mwnet.mntc.nrcs.usda.gov" and put the following information in the Body "subscribe rcd <your full name>".

**To send a message to the list:** When you have a message for the NETWORK, you send it to "mwnet!rcd" if you are on the NRCS system or the Internet address of "rcd@mwnet.mntc.nrcs.usda.gov".

**To get a list of subscribers:** if you would like a list of who is currently on the list, send a mail message request to "mwnet!listserv" if you are on NRCS system or to "listserv@mwntc.mntc.usda.gov" if your on Internet and put the following information in the body "review rcd".

**To send a message to someone on the list:** if you have a message to send to one particular user on the list, use the mail address given with the list of subscribers. This mail address will route mail through mwnet to that user. Keep in mind that anything addressed to rcd will go to every subscriber.

**HELP:** Sending a message "help" to "mwntc!listserv" or "lostserv@mwnet.mntc.nrcs.usda.gov" will get you a complete set of commands and instructions for this location.

**Questions:** If you have problems or questions about the lists that requires a human response mail a message to the "list controller" at the following address: "mwntc!mailcon" pr "mailcon@mwntc.mntc.nrcs.usda.gov"

### Conducting Revolving Loan Fund Training

Economic Development Finance Service (EDFS) will hold at least four major training events during 1996 for operators of Revolving Loan Funds Programs. The Training focuses on RLF administration, the lending process, and RLF management. These professional seminars provide a unique opportunity to share expertise and experiences with peers as well as receive detailed, in-depth training. Seminars and dates:

#### **RLF Organization & Administration**

May 6-7, 1996 Salt Lake City, Utah

SEPT. 5-6, 1996 Nashville, Tennessee

#### **Best Practices in the Design and Management of RLFs**

April 25-26, 1996 Washington, D.C.

Nov. 7-8, 1996 Hilton Head, North Carolina

If you are interested in any of these training opportunities contact Economic Development Finance Service, NADO Research Foundation, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20001, Telephone 202-624-8813.



## **NARC&DC Executive Director's Report — March 1996**

### **National Association Office & Administrative Activity:**

- \* Cost of operating the National Office has been reduce by 30%.
- \* Partnership opportunities are being explored that will help reduce the Associations cost of maintaing the National office further.
- \* Negotiations are underway for full time office assistant and secretarial and accounting support.

### **Associate Membership Drive:**

- \* Individual Membership drive kicked off the first week in March.
- \* State and Regions - Will kick off week of April 15.
- \* Membership benefits being developed
  - Telephone & Calling Card Services
  - Insurance and Financial Services
  - Travel Services

### **USDA RC&D Working Group/Association activities**

- \* Survey of 331 Councils to determine level of NRCS Support - Computer Modem Status.
- \* Developing strategies for NARC&D to work within the new NRCS Structure.
- \* NRCS/RC&D Capacity Building/Strategic Planning Grant.

### **Nationan Agency & Association Partnerships:**

- \* Meeting with the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives to develop possible National Rural Computer and Communications Project.
- \* Meeting with RECD Rural Utilities Service and Rural Cooperatives Service on possible National Rural Computer and Communications Project.
- \* Meeting with Pinchot Institute for Conservation on possible National Rural Computer and Communications Project.
- \* Meetiong with NACD/NRCS Liaison on potential office and staff sharing venture.
- \* Meeting with NADO and discussisng joint staffing, grant, and project activities.
- \* Weekly contact with Gerald Talbert, NACD Legislative Liaison, monitoring Farm Bill RC&D language.

**Special Projects and Grants in Process:**

- \* Rural Development Partnerships that Work (NADO/RC&D Concept).
- \* Strategically Planning and Implementing Dynamic Rural Development Partnerships at Federal, State and Local levels.
- \* Rural Development Partnerships Showcase - 1997 RC&D Conference.
- \* Building Self Sustaining Rural Development Organizations - (seeking partners).
- \* The Rural Computer and Communications Network-Connecting Rural America to the Future.

**Legislative Monitoring and Action:**

- \* Monitoring Farm Bill and Budget progress
- \* Initiated Board contact with Farm Bill Conferee. RC&D language now included in Farm Bill.
- \* Proposing partnership coverage of Rural Development and Natural Resource issues on the Hill and in USDA Agencies through joint staffing, monitoring, and alert activities.

**National RC&D 1997 Conference Stories**

Reggie Skains and Richard Bolli want to express their appreciation to all of the Councils and Coordinators that responded to the request for stories to be used for the 1997 National Conference. There was a good distribution of topics and areas across the nation.

The Program Committee will be organizing the structure for the presentations in August and you should be receiving more information this fall concerning the next step.

Feel free to contact the Program Committee if you have any ideas that might be helpful in making this an outstanding conference. Thanks for your help!!

**RC&D Program Managers Report****1. Authorization of New Areas**

- a. There has been a moratorium on new authorizations for the past two years due to an evaluation of the program and the establishment of a new staff and operating procedures.
- b. An improved process to evaluate the applications was developed by the USDA RC&D Working Group. The process included an analysis of each application area using the following factors:
  - \* Socio-economic Profile
  - \* Natural resources/Conservation/ Environmental Needs Concerns.
  - \* Community Planning and Organization
  - \* Community Representativeness

- c. Recommendations for authorizing 12 RC&D areas have been sent to the Secretary's office for his decision. They will be funded with \$1.2 million in carryover funds that were designated for new authorizations last year.
- d. The Working Group is presently investigating opportunities to develop partnerships and agreements with Forest Service, the Extension Service, and the Rural Business Development Service to share support for new and existing RC&D Areas. Expansion of partnerships with USDA agencies and other Federal agencies is planned for the future.

## 2. Expansions

- a. All requests for expansions have been sent to the Secretary for approval.
- b. It is anticipated that they will all be approved.

## 3. Goals of the new RC&D staff in NHQ

- a. Formulation and support of RC&D policy. Advise the USDA RC&D Policy Board regarding administration of the RC&D Program, including formulation of policies and guidance for carrying out the RC&D Program.
- b. Evaluating the program to determine whether it is effectively meeting the needs of, and the objectives identified by organizations participating in the program.
- c. Respond to and or implement RC&D Task Force Recommendations.
- d. Support to the National Association of RC&D Councils, including strategic planning, technical assistance, and cooperative initiatives in marketing and communications.
- e. Communication with coordinators and councils, including fact sheets, voice mail, E-mail, and internet.
- f. Insure that all RC&D staff receive needed training, including remote training using internet and satellite technology, as well as participatory workshops and training sessions.

## 4. Budget

- a. The FY 1996 appropriation for RC&D is \$29 million.
- b. After NRCS administrative expenses have been withdrawn (NHQ, Institutes, Centers and USDA) approximately \$23 million was allocated to the Regional Conservationists for distribution to the states.
- c. NHQ RC&D staff provided guidance to the Regional Conservationists that every state provide a base level of support to all RC&D Areas. This base level of support is to include a full-time coordinator, a minimum of a part-time secretary, and overhead such as computers, vehicle, travel and training budget, and related items.
- d. The base level of support was to be provided whether or not RC&D funds were sufficient.

## In Print

\* *Directory of State Extension Small Farm Program Coordinators 1995* - gives the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the coordinators alphabetically by state. Specific small farmer outreach programs and their directors are also given. For cost and other information contact Dennis Ebodaghe, Ag Box 2260, Washington, DC 20250, telephone 202-401-4385, FAX 202-401-5179.

\* *Growing New Ventures, Creating New Jobs: Principles of Successful Business Incubation* - gives specific guidance about topics such as the mix of participating companies, achieving financial self-sustainability, recruiting staff, structuring a governance systems, links to community resources, appropriate incubator facilities and developing the right kinds of assistance programs for entrepreneurs.

\$29.95. For more information contact the National Business Incubation Association at telephone 614-593-4331; FAX 614-593-1996.

\* *Guide to Rural Data: Revised Edition* by Pricilla Salant and Nita J. Waller. This complete revised edition explains how to find and obtain the most current information on rural America both in published form and electronically. The authors identify data sources and illustrate how those data can be used to analyze social and economic change. \$22.95. Order from Island Press. Box 7, Dept. 2PR, Covelo, CA 95428; telephone 800-828-1302.

\* *Tourism: Putting The Pieces Together* - available from the US Department of Commerce Tourism Policy Council. This 149-page document was written to provide an overview of the process for developing a tourism strategy and determining resource allocation, infrastructure development, environment, safety, and facilitation and barrier reduction. The book is free and can be ordered by calling the Tourism Policy Council at 202-482-2404.

\* *Growing New Ventures, Creating New Jobs* - now available from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. This 156-page book gives advice for start-

ing, managing, or investing in business incubators. It offers three principles of successful business incubators, tests to determine an incubator's feasibility, ways to attract high-quality entrepreneurs and examples and advice from the directors of some of the country's top business incubators. To order call the Kauffman Foundation at 816-932-1043. The cost is \$29.95.

\* *Financing Recycling-Related Ventures: Options for Community Development* - suggests how recycling ventures can economically-benefit communities. This 30-page document gives information on available financing to start-up, expand, or operate a recycling program. This publication is available from the Institute for Local Self Reliance at 202-232-4108. The cost is \$12.

\* *National Wood Recycling Directory*: The American Forest and Paper Association has teamed up with the USDA Forest Service, the Cooperative Extension Service and others to develop a first addition of the National Wood Recycling Directory. The purpose of this publication is to increase fiber supply, divert wood from landfills, encourage a market for recycled wood products, encourage economic growth, and help businesses and the general public find collection facilities for used wood. The Directory is designed to help individuals, groups, communities, builders, remodelers, and demolition contractors avoid costly landfill fees and better use the resource by identifying receiving sites for recovered wood. The Directory lists by state and by county the names and addresses of wood residue receivers nationwide. A limited supply is available from this office. If you would like to order in bulk, please contact the AFPA office at 1111 19th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036 or phone 202-463-2785. Single copy requests can be made by calling the Southern Regional Extension Forester Office at 706-542-7813.

\* *Funding Sources For Community And Economic Development Guidebook*: The first edition of this guidebook contains 1,609 current funding programs that support programs and projects initiated by organizations and individuals on national, state, and local levels to be imple

mented within communities to develop resources and/or enrich and improve the lives of community residents. The programs listed in this guide include both "brick & mortar" programs, social services, and selected research grants. Brick and mortar community development focuses on economic development, such as bringing in new business and industry to stimulate the local economy, or building housing projects for low-income families. Social services improve the quality of life for the citizens of the area, whether they are in urban or rural settings, and may include such services as after-school programs for youth-at-risk. Many forestry and natural resources grant opportunities are listed. For a copy of this guide, contact the Oryx Press, 4041 North Central at Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012-23397.

\* *AFPA's Sustainable Forestry BMP's Publication Available*: A cooperative effort between the American Forest And Paper Association, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and Oregon State University has yielded a high-quality 12-page publication entitled 'Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality'. This effort, initiated in the summer of 1995, brought together industry and academia to develop a publication that explains the importance and intricacies involved in state-level best management practices for protecting water quality. The publication is unique in that it combines statistics with landowner testimony to tell a vivid story of the water quality issue on our forest lands. For copies of this publication or the newly printed 'Sustainable Forestry Principals and Implementation Guidelines' contact the AF&PA at 1111 19 Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036, Telephone 1-800-878-8878.

\* *Announcing the Environmental Success Index* - Now on the World Wide Web! Currently containing 1600 plus programs, the Environmental Success Index chronicles projects across the country which measurably protect, restore or enhance the environment. These success stories are now available on Renew America homepage at [http://solstice.crest.org/renew\\_america](http://solstice.crest.org/renew_america). This interactive web site allows you to conduct specific searches for programs you are interested in, and allows access to related environmental business and government web sites.

The Environmental Success Index is also available in print for \$15.00. Contact Renew America by calling 202-232-2252.

National distribution of RC&D Notes is made quarterly. The next issue is due August 1, 1996. Deadline for articles you wish to have considered for publication in August of Notes is July 1, 1996. Please send your contributions to—

John Marstella, RC&D Specialist  
National Cartography & Geospatial Center  
501 Felix Street, Bldg 23  
P.O. Box 6567  
Fort Worth, TX 76115

or

Richard Bolli, RC&D Specialist  
NRCS – Federal Bldg, Room 152  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Your comments, suggestions, and contributions are greatly appreciated. Your information and ideas are important to others. Please take the time to share them.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.